

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
AGRE-00 /093 W

-----060236 231638Z /50

R 231349Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9039  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 9035

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: KN KS UR US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS OF KOREA MFA OFFICIAL

1. SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 22 CALL, KOREAN DESK OFFICER  
AT MFA, ALEKSEI PUTIVETS, STATED THAT SOVIET-NORTH KOREAN  
RELATIONS ARE PROGRESSING NORMALLY, THAT TRADE TURNOVER  
FOR THIS YEAR WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS 1976 (350 MILLION  
RUBLES), DESPITE CERTAIN "DIFFICULTIES", THAT BOTH SIDES  
ARE STILL AWAITING A SUITABLE TIME FOR THE VISIT OF  
KIM IL-SUNG TO MOSCOW, AND THAT THE USSR MAINTAINS NO  
CONTACTS WITH SOUTH KOREA BECAUSE "OUR FRIENDS" OPPOSE  
SUCH CONTACTS. HE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT MOSCOW  
FAVORS ONLY "PEACEFUL" AND "DEMOCRATIC" METHODS FOR  
RESOLVING THE KOREAN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

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WM EMBOFFS CALLED JUNE 22  
ON ALEKSEI D. PUTIVETS, COUNSELOR OF THE FIRST  
FAR EASTERN DIVISION OF MFA RESPONSIBLE FOR KOREAN  
AFFAIRS. PUTIVETS STATED THAT SOVIET-NORTH KOREAN  
RELATIONS ARE MOVING AHEAD ROUTINELY. WITHOUT  
PROVIDING DETAILS, HE SOUGHT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION

OF NORMAL IF NOT WARM CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA WAS PART OF A NORMAL EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS (THE LAST SIMILAR SOVIET DELEGATION HAVING VISITED PYONGYANG IN LATE 1971 AND A DPRK DELEGATION HAVING COME TO THE USSR IN 1974). HE SAID THAT THE VISIT WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE ORGANS AND DID NOT DEAL WITH SOVIET-DPRK ECONOMIC RELATIONS OR BROADER QUESTIONS.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC TIES PUTIVETS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NORTH KOREA WILL BE SETTING OUT ON A SEVEN-YEAR PLAN NEXT YEAR BUT DID NOT THINK THAT DISPARITIES IN PLANNING PERIODS WOULD IMPAIR CURRENT ECONOMIC CONTACTS. HE SAID THAT OVERALL TRADE TURNOVER THIS YEAR WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 350 MILLION RUBLES, I.E., LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. HE IDENTIFIED PETROLEUM, EQUIPMENT FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AND FERROUS METALS AS AMONG THE SOVIET PRODUCTS SENT TO THE DPRK IN RETURN FOR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. PUTIVETS INDICATED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN "DIFFICULTIES", BUT CONTINUED THAT THERE WAS AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN APPROXIMATELY "BALANCED" TRADE. ASKED ABOUT THESE "DIFFICULTIES" HE MENTIONED THOSE CAUSED BY THE DROUGHT IN NORTH

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KOREAN THIS SPRING WHICH HAS HELD UP DPRK DELIVERIES OF SOME ITEMS TO THE USSR AND HAD, IN TURN, HELD BACK SOVIET DELIVERIES TO PYONGYANG. HE DENIED THAT NORTH KOREAN HARD CURRENCY DIFFICULTIES HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON SOVIET-DPRK TRADE SINCE THIS TRADE IS CONDUCTED ON A CLEARING ACCOUNT BASIS, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE DIVERSION OF KOREAN GOODS TO HARD CURRENCY MARKETS COULD REQUIRE "TECHNICAL" ADJUSTMENT TO ALLOW FOR DELAYED DELIVERY.

4. ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY KIM IL-SUNG TO MOSCOW, PUTIVETS REPLIED THAT BOTH SIDES WANT SUCH A VISIT BUT HAD NOT YET WORKED OUT THE TIMING. THE

PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS ON ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER ALWAYS SEEMS TO INTRUDE, HE SAID, CITING THE CELEBRATIONS THIS AUTUMN OF THE USSR'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, AND MAKING A FLEETING REFERENCE TO THE "SITUATION LAST AUTUMN" (I.E., JUST AFTER THE PANMUNJON INCIDENT IN AUGUST). HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO SEEK A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME FOR KIM TO COME TO MOSCOW.

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
AGRE-00 /093 W

-----060242 231637Z /50

R 231349Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9040  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
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USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 9035

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. ON KIM HIMSELF, PUTIVETS STATED THAT HE CURRENTLY IS IN GOOD HEALTH, ALTHOUGH AT 65 HE IS NOT WHAT HE WAS AT 30. PUTIVETS DID NOT THINK THAT THE TUMOR ON KIM'S NECK WAS TROUBLING HIM, NOTING THAT HE HAS HAD THIS TUMOR FOR MANY YEARS, BUT HAD BEEN VERY ACTIVE RECENTLY. PUTIVETS AVOIDED A DIRECT ANSWER TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE ELEVATION OF KIM'S SON KIM CHUNG-IL TO A LEADERSHIP POSITION, SAYING THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED "OFFICIALLY" BUT THAT KIM JUNIOR HAD BECOME "POLITICALLY ACTIVE" IN RECENT YEARS. HE STATED THAT KIM CHONG-IL HAD NEVER STUDIED IN THE USSR.

6. ASKED ABOUT SOVIET-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS,  
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PUTIVETS STATED THAT MOSCOW HAS NO CONTACTS WITH SEOUL BECAUSE "OUR FRIENDS" OPPOSE SUCH CONTACTS. HE NOTED THAT MOSCOW HAS ENDORSED (IN PRESS COMMENTARIES) PYONGYANG'S OPPOSITION TO THE JAPANESE-SOUTH KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE "SEOUL REGIME" DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR "ALL" OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON CHINESE-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS, PUTIVETS STATED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY INCREASE IN CHINESE INFLUENCE IN PYONGYANG AND FELT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN LEADERS REALIZED THE DANGERS POSED BY PEKING'S POLICIES. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A DISCOURSE ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS -- INDEED, THE DANGERS, -- OF PEKING'S AMBITIONS AND ASIA AND ITS OPPOSITION TO PEACE IN GENERAL.

8. PUTIVETS ASKED FOR A SUMMARY OF THE US POSITION ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM KOREA AND DID NOT ARGUE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE US SEEKS TO ASSURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND IN THE REGION GENERALLY. HE WAS ASSURED THAT THE US PLAN WAS TO WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES GRADUALLY BUT TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENCE OF SOUTH KOREA. HE ASKED WHAT PYONGYANG'S REACTION HAD BEEN TO THE US POLICY AND PRESSED FOR EVIDENCE THAT THE US AND NORTH KOREA HAD HAD CONTACTS ON THIS QUESTION. EMBOFF SAID THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH CONTACTS, THAT THE US BELIEVED THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD THE RIGHT TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING THEIR FATE, AND THAT WE REGRETTED PYONGYANG'S REJECTION OF THEN-SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL  
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FOR A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE ON KOREA. PUTIVETS SAID THAT HE THOUGHT PYONGYANG WAS STILL "CAREFULLY EXAMINING" THE NEW US POSITION AND THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO RESPOND.

9. COMMENT: PUTIVETS WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND OPEN IN HIS COMMENTS WHICH WERE ENTIRELY NON-POLEMICAL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE "DIFFICULTIES" IN SOVIET-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS AND HIS EXPLANATION OF THE DELAYS IN ARRANGING A VISIT BY KIM IL-SUNG DISCREETLY CONVEYED A SENSE OF THE COOLNESS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SIMILARLY, HIS COMMENTS ON CURRENT ECONOMIC RELATIONS SUGGESTED THAT MOSCOW SEES LITTLE

REASON TO ATTEMPT TO EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY ITS TRADE  
OR ITS AID IN NORTHKOREA. HIS CLEAREST MESSAGE,  
REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION, WAS THAT MOSCOW  
FAVORS ONLY "PEACEFUL" AND "DEMOCRATIC" METHODS OF  
CHANGE IN KOREAN AND SEEKS TO AVOID ANY INCREASE IN  
TENSIONS WHICH COULD INVOLVE OUTSIDE POWERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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